

passion. When salt Is not to be had the passion for
 meat reaches
 Its highest Intensity. " When tribes [of Australians]
 assembled
 to eat the fruit of the bunya-bunya they were not
 permitted to
 kill any game [in the district where the trees grow],
 and at length
 the craving for flesh was so intense that they were
 impelled to
 kill one of their number, in order that their
 appetites might be
 satisfied." ¹ It follows that when this custom has
 become traditional the present food supply may have little
 effect on it.
 There are cases at the present time in which the
 practice of
 using human flesh for food Is customary on a large
 and systematic scale On the island of New Britain human
 flesh is sold
 in shops as butcher's meat is sold amongst us.² In
 at least some
 of the Solomon Islands human victims (preferably
 women) are
 fattened for a feast, like pigs.³ Lloyd ⁴ describes the
 cannibalism
 of the Bangwa as an everyday affair, although they
 eat chiefly
 enemies, and rarely a woman. The women share the
 feast, sitting
 by themselves. He says that it is, no doubt, " a
 depraved appetite."
 They are not at all ashamed of it.
 Physically the men
 are very fine. " The cannibalism of the Monbutto is
 unsurpassed
 by any nation in the world/' ⁵ Amongst them
 human flesh is
 sold as if it were a staple article of food. They are
 " a noble
 race." They have national pride, intellectual power,
 and good
 judgment. They are orderly, friendly, and have a
 stable national
 life.⁶ Ward⁷ describes the cannibalism on the
 great bend of
 the Congo as due to a relish for the kind of food.
 " Origin-
 ating, apparently, from stress of adverse
 circumstances, it has
 become an acquired taste, the indulgence of
 which has created
 a peculiar form of mental disorder, with lack of

feeling, love of
fighting, cruelty, and general human degeneracy,
as prominent
attributes." An organized traffic in human beings
for food exists
on the upper waters of the Congo. It is thought
that the pygmy
tribe of the Wambutti are not cannibals because
they are too
"low/* and because they do not file the lower
incisors. The

¹ Smyth, *Victoria*, I, xxxviii. * *Dwarf-land*, 345.

³ *Aust. Ass. Adv. Set.*, 1892, 618. ⁵ Schweinfurth,
Heart of Africa, II, 94.

3 JAI, XVII, 99. « Keane, *Ethnology*, 265.
I, XXIV, 298.